

California and Western Medicine

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EDITORIALS

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Twenty-five years ago the California Medical Association, then known as the Medical Society of the State of California, upon the initiative of one of its younger members, the late Philip Mills Jones, established its official publication, the *California State Journal of Medicine*.

In March, 1924, upon the suggestion of its then editor, the late William Everett Musgrave, the name of the official California publication, after it became the accredited representative of the Nevada and Utah State Medical Associations, was changed to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

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The California Medical Association may well be proud of the vigorous manner in which its journal sprang into existence and for the valiant and efficient way in which it battled for a widespread organization of the medical profession and the elevation of the standards of medical education, licensure and practice.

Its founder, Philip Mills Jones—for if this journal had a founder, he more than any other one man was its sponsor—was no mollicoddle type of man. He was a clear thinker, a clever editor, a fighter. He was human, very human, both in his weaknesses and in his strength. He made enemies, but he likewise had strong and devoted friends. He was proud of the profession of medicine; loyal to its principles and to its members, and his beliefs, as printed in the columns of this publica-

tion, played a very considerable part in the up-building of our State Medical Society at a crucial time in its existence.

He is no longer with us, for with a host of other colleagues who were once part of us in the brunt of the fray, both in civil practice and in medical society organization work, he has gone on into the Great World Beyond. We are grateful that these men lived and played their parts so well, and that it was our good fortune to know them and to profit through association with them. May their souls rest in peace.

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Just as they came and went, so in good time each of the rest of us who have come, in equal measure, will go. And in the rush of daily work and responsibilities only a few will pause, to linger and consider, in contemplation of such small deeds of good and of service as it may have been our fortune to have rendered.

Yet in an organization such as ours, where we are all bound together by ideals of service in a profession that labors for the conservation of human health, the prolongation of human life and the alleviation of human suffering and disease, we are through such service brought together in many respects, as are the members of a family who are bound together by blood and the inherited tendencies of their forbears.

A blood family group whose members ignore the traditions of their blood, their forbears and race, rarely amounts to much. Honest, respectful pride of lineage, in order to live up to the best of one's forbears and blood, is desired by all who would make of themselves human units whose existence warrants a reason for being.

So also, in an organization such as this great California Medical Association—one of the large state medical societies of the nation—it may be worth our while to pause a bit from time to time and think for the moment of some of the aims and achievements of those who labored in our organization in the years gone by.

The early history of the medical profession of California is still to be written, and the official journal in which a monthly survey of the work of our society is presented on printed page goes back only a quarter of a century. Not very long, as judged by the history of man, but what wonderful, massive years in the forward movement of scientific medicine!

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In November, 1902, just twenty-five years ago this month, Volume 1, No. 1, of this journal was printed and mailed. The memory of our older members will carry back to that time in recollection of its advent among them. Yet how few, how very few among them have bound volumes thereof. As a matter of fact, Volume 1, No. 1, has even disappeared from the file in our central office, and the editors would be glad to acknowledge the gift from any member who could again